

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02592 142222Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 IO-14 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IR
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 13

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY'S YEAR END PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
LOCAL REPORTERS MARCH 13 WAS VARIOUSLY REPORTED IN THE
PRESS, BUT SUMMARIES BELOW COME FROM MOST RELIABLE PRESS
SOURCES AND NOTES KEPT BY MFA SPOKESMAN WHO WAS PRESENT.
THEY GENERALLY ITERATE WELL KNOWN IRANIAN POSITIONS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02592 142222Z

2. MIDDLE EAST AND SADAT INITIATIVE. ASKED ABOUT
PROBABLE EFFECT OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDO ACTION IN ISRAEL
ON SADAT INITIATIVE, KHALATBARY WAS NON-COMMITTAL. HE
SAID EFFECTS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE AT THIS TIME BEYOND
POSTPONEMENT OF BEGIN VISIT TO U.S. FURTHER EFFECTS
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF THAT VISIT.

ASKED ABOUT SADAT INTERVIEW IN EGYPT'S "OCTOBER" MAGAZINE, WHICH REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT SADAT WOULD GET INTO CONTACT WITH THE FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES RESISTING HIS INITIATIVE AND RETRACT HIS PEACE INITIATIVE IF THEY INSISTED, KHALATBARY SAID THIS WAS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS ON SADAT'S PART BUT REALISM.

3. HORN OF AFRICA. KHALATBARY REPEATED GIST OF MFA STATEMENT PREVIOUS DAY (TEHRAN 2554). ASKED ABOUT IRAN'S REACTION IF ETHIOPIANS CROSS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZED FRONTIER, HE SAID ONE SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE THESE MATTERS. ETHIOPIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THEY ONLY WANT TO REGAIN THE OGADEN REGION.

4. KENYA. KHALATBARY TOLD PRESS U.K. IS REPRESENTING IRAN INTERESTS IN KENYA.

5. TURKEY. KHALATBARY SAID THERE ARE NO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES WITH TURKEY, JUST SOME PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HOWEVER, WITH THE EFFORTS MADE, AND WITH ECEVIT'S FRIENDLY VIEWS, GOI HOPES THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WILL DISAPPEAR.

6. EAST GERMANY. KHALATBARY REHEARSED AT SOME LENGTH IRAN'S DISPLEASURE WITH LACK OF EFFECTIVE PUNISHMENT BY EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES OF "PSEUDO-STUDENTS" WHO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 02592 142222Z

ATTACKED IRANIAN EMBASSY THERE. NOTING AVERAGE AGE OF THESE SO-CALLED STUDENTS WAS 34 YEARS, HE SAID MERE EXPULSION HAS LED IRAN TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ANYBODY CAN REPEAT SUCH ACTS OF VANDALISM AGAINST IRAN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN AND UNDERGO NO SANCTION BEYOND EXPULSION. THIS RUNS CONTRARY TO ALL INTERNATIONAL LAW REQUIRING PROTECTION OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES. THESE STUDENTS HAVE NOT AFFECTED THE APPLICATION OF COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS FOR SALE OF GERMAN GOODS IN IRAN, KHALATBARY ADDED, BUT AS IRAN HAS PRACTICALLY NO MORE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GDR, IT IS EVIDENT THAT NEW NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS SORT ARE NOT POSSIBLE.

7. IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF. KHALATBARY REVIEWED THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAQI POSITION THAT SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION CAN BEST BE ASSURED BY BILATERAL ACCORDS AND IRANIAN POSITION THAT A COLLECTIVE PACT WOULD BE PREFERABLE. HE SAID THIS ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BAGHDAD.

8. INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN. KHALATBARY SAID IRAN'S HISTORIC AND TRADITIONAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA RISE ABOVE

THE QUESTION OF WHAT PARTY IS IN POWER THERE.
IF FOLLOING FREE ELECTIONS A POLITICAL PARTY
REPLACES ANOTHER, THIS IS A DOMESTIC MATTER. HE NOTED
THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS ESTABLISHED (IN THE PAST) BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND THE CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDED OVER BY
INDIRA GANDHI. KHALATBARY ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT
DAOUD OF AFGHANISTAN HAD REFERRED TO CONFUSION AS TO
THE NATURE OF A PROPOSED REGIONAL COMMON MARKET WHILE
IN ISLAMABAD BUT (ACCORDING TO KHALATBARY) EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
THE PRINCIPLE OF SUCH A MARKET. HE ADDED THAT AS REGARDS DAOUD'S
RESERVATIONS ON THE RCD, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THE
RCD IS AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH IS NOT RELATED IN
ANY WAY TO THE CENTO PACT. IT IS A MISTAKE TO ESTABLISH
CONNECTIONS WHICH DO NOT EXIST.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 TEHRAN 02592 142222Z

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